

Featherstone
Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical

Officer of Health

1947

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FEATHERSTONE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL—1947

Chairman : Cr. Edward Rowley, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman : Cr. Henry Woodcock

Cr. R. Chilton

Cr. Alan Booth

Cr. Aaron Evans, J.P.

Cr. John B. Fennell

Cr. James Graham

Cr. William Griffiths

Cr. J. Parker

Cr. Thomas Morgan

Cr. William H. Roberts

Cr. H. Darbyshire

Clerk of the Council : Raymond William Bainton, F.C.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health : John Duncan, M.B., Ch.B.

Senior Sanitary Inspector : John Hilsley, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ANNUAL REPORT
 of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
 for the
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF
FEATHERSTONE
 for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1947

To the Chairman and Members of the Council :

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of placing before you the Annual Report of the health of your District for the year ended 31st December 1947, along with the Report of your Sanitary Inspector (Mr. J. Hilsley).

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District	...	...	4,425 acres
Population, mid-year, Registrar General's estimate			13,140
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1947	...		3,604

Rateable Value	...	...	£50,485
Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	£192/18/5
General Rate laid April, 1947	...	...	£53,245/18/2

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	167	156	323
Illegitimate	...	4	6	10
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	171	162	333
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population—25.34

Still Births

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	7	4	11
Illegitimate	...	2	2	4
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	9	6	15
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)—43.1

Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population—1.14

Deaths

		Male	Female	Total
All Causes	...	77	69	146

Death Rate per 1,000 population—11.11

The following table gives particulars of the causes of deaths that occurred in the district—

CAUSES OF DEATH			Male	Female	Total
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	...	...	1	3	4
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	...	...	1	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	1	-	1
Influenza	...	...	2	2	4
Cancer	...	...	12	9	21
Diabetes	...	...	-	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	7	9	16
Heart diseases	...	...	16	15	31
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	1	2	3
Bronchitis	...	...	6	6	12
Pneumonia	...	...	6	1	7
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	3	1	4
Other digestive diseases	...	...	3	2	5
Nephritis	...	...	-	3	3
Maternal causes	...	...	-	1	1
Premature birth	...	...	3	4	7
Con. Mal., Birth Injury, Infant Dis.	...	...	2	-	2
Suicide	...	...	1	-	1
Other violent causes	...	...	1	1	2
All other causes	...	...	10	7	17
			77	69	146

The number of deaths registered during the year was 146, 14 more than last year. This yields a death rate of 11.1 per thousand of the estimated civilian population as against a figure of 10.1 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales is 12.0.

The principal causes of death as compared with 1946 are as follows :

		1947	1946
Heart disease	...	31	40
Cancer	...	21	15
Intra-cranial vascular lesion		16	19
Bronchitis	...	12	7

Cancer. 21 deaths occurred during the year, 12 being males and 9 females, showing that 14% of the total deaths were due to this disease.

INFANT MORTALITY

Infants under one year—

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	6	6	12
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	36.03
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		37.15
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil

Infant Mortality—

This is measured by the proportion of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 registered births. The total deaths under 1 year was 12, and the total live births 333, giving an infant mortality of 36.0 compared with 65 in 1946. Analysis of the figures shows that 9 of these 12 deaths were due to constitutional defects at time of birth, and prematurity.

MATERNAL DEATHS

There was one maternal death.

Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births—2.87.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1942	21.1	9.9	53
1943	20.9	11.4	66
1944	22.9	10.6	35
1945	21.8	11.3	40
1946	21.4	10.1	65

**Comparison of Vital Statistics of Featherstone Urban District with
aggregate West Riding Urban Districts, West Riding Administrative
County, and England and Wales**

	Featherstone Urban District Council	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Administrative County	England & Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE				
(Per 1,000 estimated population)	25.3	21.6	21.5	20.5
DEATH RATES				
(All per 1,000 estimated population)				
All Causes ..	11.1	12.7	12.3	12.0
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal)	—	0.16	0.16	*
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.30	0.38	0.39	0.47
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.15	0.09	0.09	0.08
Respiratory Diseases (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.52	1.41	1.37	*
Cancer ..	1.60	1.87	1.80	1.85
Heart & Circulatory Diseases	2.59	4.23	3.98	*
INFANT MORTALITY				
(Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) ..	36	44	45	41
DIARRHOEA				
(Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births) ..	—	5.17	5.31	5.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY				
(Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)				
Puerperal Sepsis ..	—	0.24	0.21	0.26
Other Causes ..	2.87	0.88	1.07	0.91
Total ..	2.87	1.12	1.28	1.17

*Figures not available

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) amongst the civilian population—

		Total notified cases	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet fever	...	22	22	—
Diphtheria	...	14	14	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	17	—	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	1	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		1	—	—
Erysipelas	...	5	—	—
Measles	...	252	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	59	—	—

373 cases of disease were notified during 1947—an increase of 228 on the previous year's figure. This was due to an epidemic of measles and a mild epidemic of whooping cough. 252 cases of measles was an increase of 199 on the figure for 1946, and whooping cough showed an increase of 23. There was a decrease of 4 in diphtheria notifications; scarlet fever notifications showed an increase of 6.

TUBERCULOSIS

In the following table new cases and mortality are classified:

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
5 and under 15	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
15 and under 25	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 and under 35	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-
35 and under 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and under 55	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 and under 65	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	6	1	2	1	3	1	1

The following table summarises particulars contained in the Register of Tuberculous Persons :

No. of cases in Register	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Total in Register	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
At commencement of 1947	58	40	40	41	98	81
Notified under Regulations of 1930 for the first time during 1947	7	6	1	2	8	8
Removed during 1947	4	7	2	4	6	11
At end of 1947	61	39	39	39	100	78

The reasons for removal of cases from the Register are given in the following table :

Entries relating to —	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Totals
	M	F	M	F	
Persons who have died ...	1	3	1	1	6
Persons certified by the Medical Practitioner in attendance to have recovered ...	1	2	-	3	6
Persons who have ceased to reside in the district ...	2	2	1	-	5
Totals	4	7	2	4	17

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

A campaign was held during June, 1947.

During the year under review 110 children under 5, and 57 over 5 years received a full course of primary immunisation. Also 490 children were given a reinforcing injection.

VENEREAL DISEASE

9 new cases attended at the V.D. Clinic, Wakefield, for treatment. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for this information.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

1,390 journeys were made by the two Ambulances during 1947. The total mileage covered was 13,590.

HOUSING AND PRIVATE STREETS

During the year 34 traditional brick houses and 50 permanent type pre-fabricated houses were erected by the Local Authority, and 4 brick houses completed by private enterprise.

WATER SUPPLY

Our water supply is good, and all the houses in the district with the exception of one, are connected with the Public Water Supply.

WATER USED

Half-year to March 1947	...	39,210,000 gallons costing	£2,899/9/9
Half-year to September 1947	...	44,636,000 gallons costing	£2,547/0/4
Average cost per 1,000 gallons—15.59 pence plus 5%			

RAINFALL DURING 1947

January	...	1.58 inches
February	...	1.56 inches
March	...	3.18 inches
April	...	1.72 inches
May	...	3.55 inches
June	...	2.63 inches
July	...	1.27 inches
August	...	0.55 inches
September	...	0.95 inches
October	...	0.80 inches
November	...	1.35 inches
December	...	1.93 inches

The wettest month was May with 3.55 inches and the driest month was August with 0.55 inches.

There were 227 days during the year when no rain fell.

SCAVENGING

The collection and disposal of House Refuse is done entirely by the Council workmen, and is done efficiently.

During the year 452 loads were removed to the Destructor, 3,273 loads were taken to the tips, and 1,694 loads of liquid were removed from cesspools to farmland. The cost of collection and disposal for the year amounts to £4,551/10/7.

We still have 61 cesspools in this area, mostly associated with detached houses and Ackton Wood Pastures. The cost in wages in giving attention to these cesspools was £370/18/5, and in addition the sum of £59/18/6 was paid to the Castleford Urban District Council for the use of their mechanical Cesspool Emptier.

At the end of the year 1947, we still had

3,307 Water and Waste Water Closets

30 Pail Closets

213 Privies

133 Wet Ashpits

300 Dry Ashpits

3,272 Dust Bins

128 privies were converted during 1947 (Featherstone Square and Nostell View).

We have 92% of the houses in this area on the water carriage system.

CHILD WELFARE AND MATERNITY CLINICS

These are held at the Temporary Premises formerly the War Time Nursery in Albert Street. They are well attended under the care and supervision of the Clinic Medical Officer (Dr. G. M. Mayhall) and County Nurses. The West Riding County Council are the responsible Authority for Child Welfare and Midwifery. It is again a pleasure to record appreciation of the voluntary effort and service of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee, who have maintained a sense of Local responsibility and the human touch, which I hope may not be lost in this service within the widening scope of the New Health Act.

Four Certified Midwives were engaged throughout the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

These are dealt with in the report of your Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Hilsley. On a study of this report it is apparent that our outstanding problem here is housing, and while some eighty-eight houses were completed during the year under review, our housing list at the present time still contains no less than 663 applications. It is apparent that it will be some years before the housing situation is likely to be satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. FRASER,

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G.

**URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF
FEATHERSTONE**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1947

To the Chairman and Members of the Council :

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1947, the Twenty-first I have had the honour of placing before you.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLY. The quality of the water supply has been maintained but the pressure of the supply, especially to the higher portions of your area, leaves much to be desired and it is with a view to relieving these conditions that you have instigated the erection of a new water tower. This work should be carried out with the utmost possible speed.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AND DRAINAGE.

During the year 1947, 128 Privy Closets were converted to Water Closets, leaving 213 Privy Closets and 33 Waste Water Closets still in use.

All the built up areas of your district are sewered with the exception of the Wood Lane area, where the houses are drained to cesspools. The recent acquisition of a mechanical cesspool emptier has greatly improved the sanitary circumstances of this area.

The two Sewage Works have given satisfactory service during the year.

Scavenging is done by direct labour and has been satisfactorily carried out during the year.

The estimated weight of refuse collected was 7617 tons. Of this quantity 1218 tons were incinerated at the Destructor Works, 58 tons recovered as Salvage, and 6341 tons disposed of by tipping. In addition 1694 loads of liquid from cesspools were disposed of on farm land.

It was found that extensive repairs would be required to the Refuse Destructor for it to continue to function efficiently, and it was considered that the cost was not justified.

Consequently the Destructor was closed in June and since then all refuse has been disposed of by tipping.

SALVAGE of materials of further use was carried out during the year, and the following materials were salvaged and sold—

tons	cwts	qrs	lbs		£	s	d
32	6	3	0	Waste Paper	206	2	11
13	0	3	0	Kitchen Waste	19	10	11
		3	11	Rolled Aluminium	1	7	8
	7	3	6	Bones	1	19	0
		1	0	Mixed Metals		10	0
			14	Copper		8	9
2	0	0	0	Heavy Scrap	6	0	0
1	6	0	0	Light Scrap		19	6
	15	3	22	Rags, Bagging & String	13	0	2
1	16	0	0	Broken Glass	2	9	6
			16	Brass		4	1
	1	0	16	Lead	2	17	2
7	17	0	0	Bottles and Jars	88	11	4
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59	12	3	1	Totals	£344	1	0
<hr/>					<hr/>		

NUISANCES. 497 Nuisances were discovered, the majority of which were abated as the result of informal action.

It was found necessary to serve Statutory Notices in 5 cases and these were abated without recourse to legal action.

REGULATED TRADES. Only one “offensive trade” is established in the district, that of tripe boiler. This was operated during the year without nuisance.

FACTORIES. The term Factory is comprehensive and includes premises large and small where articles are made, altered or repaired for purpose of gain.

During the year it was found necessary to issue notices in 2 cases, both for sanitary accommodation.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION. During the year 80 premises were baited (prebait and poison) against rats. These were mostly small infestations, but included several allotments. 221 dead rats were picked up, but the number of rats actually killed must have run into 4 figures.

HOUSING. This is the most urgent of our problems. During the year under review 34 traditional brick houses and 50 permanent type three bedroomed prefabricated houses were erected by the Local Authority, and 4 brick houses completed by private enterprise. Up to the time of writing this report a further 80 houses have been erected but our housing list, which has been revised, contains 663 applications.

Another factor is the rapidity with which some of the older houses are approaching "slum clearance" state due to the neglect during the war years and the very high cost of repairs at the present time making the reconditioning of these houses an uneconomic proposition.

Unless the erection of new houses is greatly speeded up it is very evident that the housing problem will be with us for a great number of years.

During the year 149 houses were dealt with under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. It was found necessary to issue 16 Statutory Notices in cases where informal action had not obtained the necessary results.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. By the Centralisation of Slaughtering by the Ministry of Food, the slaughter of animals for Food in your area is confined to pigs slaughtered for private pig-keepers, but considerable activity is called for in the inspection of "other foods." During the year the following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption—

Eggs	...	...	592
Butter	...	...	41 lbs.
Bacon and Ham	...	...	67 lbs.
Jam	...	...	4 lbs.
Tinned and Untinned Meats	...	...	488 lbs.
Tinned Peas	...	...	19 tins
Tinned Fruit	...	...	15 tins
Tinned Fish	...	...	12 tins
Tinned Milk	...	...	90 tins
Fish and Meat Paste	...	...	17 tins and jars
Tinned Beans	...	...	25 tins
Spaghetti	...	...	1 tin
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	12 tins
Tomato Juice	...	...	1 tin
Tinned Sausages	...	...	1 tin
Pickles	...	...	3 jars
Tinned Soups	...	...	3 tins
Tinned Tomatoes	...	...	9 tins
Dried Eggs	...	...	2 pkts.
Macaroni	...	...	1 tin
Ready Meals	...	...	5 tins
Steak and Kidney Pudding	...	...	7 tins

CONCLUSION. For nine months of the year I was without any outside assistance but at the beginning of October Mr. J. Ellison returned from his Army service and immediately re-

commenced his studies with a view to qualifying as a Sanitary Inspector. His services have been most valuable to me and his progress very good. I am confident that it will not be long before he qualifies and that he will make a very good Sanitary Inspector.

During the whole of the year Miss Walker has given real good service and her knowledge and good common sense have been of inestimable value not only to my department but to the administrative work of the Council in general.

My relations with Dr. Duncan as your Medical Officer of Health continued to be of a most happy nature and as this will be the last year on which he will report as Medical Officer of Health I wish to state how grateful I am for his unfailing support and encouragement.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN HILSLEY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

